

# Realising Opportunities

*An opportunity for you?*

Realising Opportunities –  
supporting progression  
to leading universities.

[www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk](http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk)



**REALISING  
OPPORTUNITIES**  
Working Together | Supporting Talent

# Realising Opportunities

- Realising Opportunities – what is it?
- What are research intensive universities?
- The RO programme and benefits
- Eligibility criteria
- How to get involved





# RO – what is it?

- National programme
- 16 research intensive universities
- One common programme

University of Birmingham

University of Exeter

Goldsmiths, University of London

King's College London

Lancaster University

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Liverpool

Loughborough University

Newcastle University

Queen Mary University of London

University of Sheffield

University of Sussex

UCL

University of Warwick

University of York

# What is a Research Intensive University?

- They have academics who are experts in their field
- Facilities are cutting edge
- They provide vibrant learning environments where teaching is research led
- Research is carried out to help solve problems in the wider world, or improve things!
- Students develop the skills employers are looking for
- They have high employability rates



# Realising Opportunities Programme

## Realising Opportunities Programme

- Local launch event
- skills4uni online study skills module
- National Student Conference
- Academic element
- Online support
- Range of events and activities at RO universities.

## Benefits

- Alternative offers may be given at all the RO universities for successful applications to them through UCAS, worth up to 2 A Level grades or equivalent (some course exemptions apply)
- All RO universities will give additional consideration to an application to them through UCAS
- Skills development
- Informed decisions about the future
- Understand what research intensive university can offer
- Access to information on careers from professionals currently employed in the field

# Benefits

- Increase knowledge and understanding of what a research intensive university can offer
- Increased access to all Partner universities

## FOR STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE:

- **All** Partner universities will potentially give an **alternative RO offer** for successful applications to them through UCAS, worth **up to 2 A Level** grades or equivalent
- **All** Partners will give additional consideration to UCAS applications



# Benefits

- Skills development:
  - academic, employability and study skills
- Support from current students
- Access to events and activities
- Position to make informed decisions



# Local Launch Event

Gives students:

- An understanding of the RO programme
- Celebrates student achievements
- Clarifies what students will undertake on RO
- An opportunity to meet staff at Partner university
- An understanding of the support available
- A chance to visit a university campus
- Taking place on: 10 January 2020





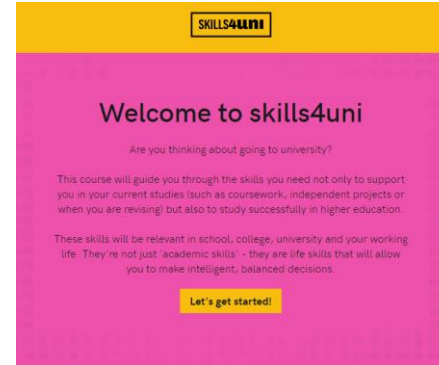
# Academic element

- Activity Day
- Online module
- A chance for students to develop skills in:
  - Analysis
  - Critical thinking
  - Evaluation
  - Research



# Skills4uni – online study skills module

- Interactive module to work through
- Multiple choice quiz on the RO student hub
- Develop key skills for independent learning
- Increase your confidence with research based project
- Gain a greater understanding of what to expect from university
- Help support you with current school work and university study



[www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk](http://www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk)

# National Student Conference

- All RO universities represented
- Chance to meet other students taking part in the RO programme
- Series of interactive sessions to develop skills and knowledge
- Visit another RO university and see a different campus



# Events and Activities

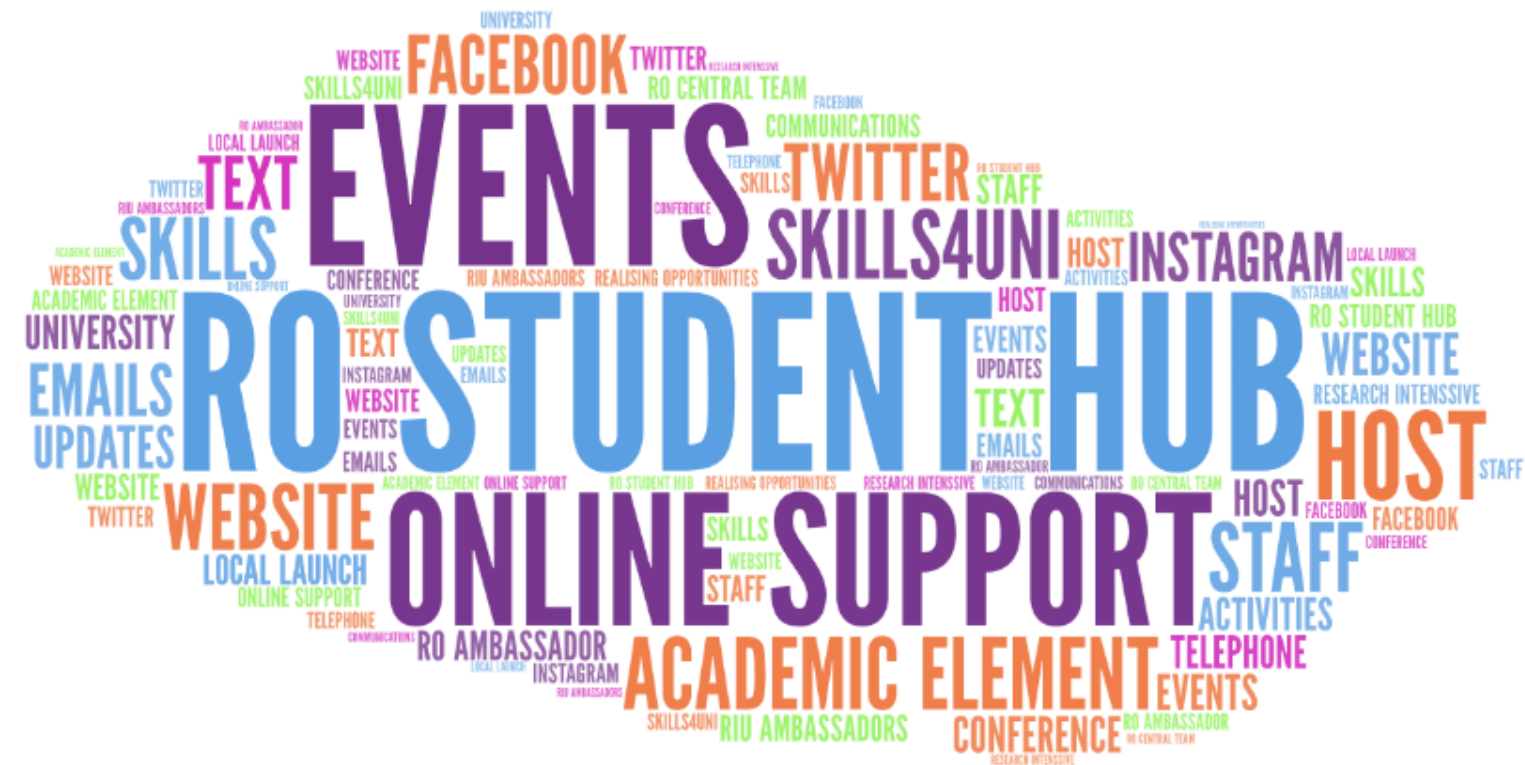
- All Partners will open up a range of events and activities to RO students
- Residential visits, master classes, subject tasters, Open Days and more
- Attendance at two events – Local Launch and National Student Conference but also encouraged to attend others
- Travel costs may be reimbursed with prior arrangement



# Online Support

- Monthly live webchats with the RO Central Team, staff and current students at RO universities
- Online support from the start of year 13 from current students at RO universities
- Get answers to questions about applying to university and university life from those who have done it!









# Who is eligible?

## **Students must meet ALL of the following criteria:**

- Attend a state-funded school/college which is currently working with an RO university to deliver the RO programme
- Have achieved at least 5 A\* to B or 9 – 6 grades at GCSE (or equivalent, e.g. GNVQ, BTEC Certificate); if this does not include including English Language and Maths students must have achieved at least a grade C (4) in these subjects
- Be a Home/EU registered student



# Who is eligible?

**Students must also meet AT LEAST TWO of the following criteria:**

- Live in a 'low participation' neighbourhood. This is defined by the student's home postcode. You can check the postcode on our website at [www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk](http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk)
- Come from a home where neither parent attended university in the UK or abroad
- Be in receipt of, or entitled to, discretionary payments/16-19 bursary at school/college or
- Be in receipt of, or entitled to, free school meals.

**Continued...**





# Who is eligible?

- Be attending or have attended a school/college:
  - that is performing below the national average for 5+ A\*-C/9-4 or equivalents including 9-4 in both English and Mathematics or below the national average Attainment 8 score per school or
  - which is performing below the national average at key stage 5, or
  - where there is higher than the national average number of students eligible for free school meals

At the point in time the student applies to the RO programme.

## **Or alternatively meet the following:**

Anyone with experience of the care system, who is a young carer, or who has experienced or has the potential to experience circumstances which could lead to a period of disrupted education, may not be required to meet all of the other criteria and their application will be considered on an individual basis.

# Comments from RO students

**IT'S AN AMAZING  
OPPORTUNITY AND  
OFFERS A RANGE  
OF DIFFERENT  
WORKSHOPS TO  
HELP IMPROVE  
YOUR SKILLS.**

Danielle, RO student 2015-2017

**YOU GET TO MEET  
GREAT PEOPLE AND  
VISIT AMAZING  
UNIVERSITIES.**

Lewis, RO student 2015-2017



# What Next?

- Read the student information leaflet
- Check your eligibility on our website:  
[www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk/prospective#eligibility](http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk/prospective#eligibility)
- Visit the RO website: [www.realisingopportunities.co.uk/apply](http://www.realisingopportunities.co.uk/apply)
- Complete the online application form
- Remind your parent/carer to complete the parent/carer section of the online application form
- Your teacher will then complete their section of the online application form
- Places on the programme are confirmed by 10 January 2020



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# Any Questions?

## Contact

The RO Central Team co-ordinates the Programme on behalf of the RO Partner universities.

Realising Opportunities  
c/o Newcastle University,  
King's Gate,  
Newcastle upon Tyne,  
NE1 7RU

0191 208 8923  
[info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk](mailto:info@realisingopportunities.ac.uk)  
[www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk](http://www.realisingopportunities.ac.uk)

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